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**From:** Deegan, Dave [Deegan.Dave@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 10/7/2020 9:08:19 PM  
**To:** R1 Executives All [R1ExecutivesALL@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** FW: Daily News Clips: Afternoon Edition 10-7-20

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**From:** Enos, Kendra  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 7, 2020 5:08:15 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** AO OPA OMR CLIPS  
**Subject:** Daily News Clips: Afternoon Edition 10-7-20

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**Agency**

[Rebuking Wheeler, EPA Workforce Resists 'Back To Office' Order](#)

<https://www.nationalmemo.com/rebuking-wheeler-epa-workforce-resists-back-to-office-order>

[Joe Maniscalco](#)

October 07 | 2020

Hundreds of telecommuting employees at the Environmental Protection Agency are in open revolt. Agency head Andrew R. Wheeler this week drew their ire for what they say is a deadly and racist order to return to federal buildings despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

They refused Monday to be bullied back into a much higher risk of contracting COVID-19 just to buttress the president's foolish behavior. And they noted that such dangerous directives appear aimed only at the EPA, an agency whose mission Trump loathes.

On Monday, as Trump made a dramatic show of returning to the White House and posing for propaganda films, the union representing many EPA employees declared its support for science and listening to doctors.

We have a president who doesn't care if you live or die. Even our mid-level management is with us on this.

American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) Council 238 held a no-confidence vote on EPA Administrator Wheeler, an action one step short of a strike, which federal law prohibits.

The Council 238 members voted 695 to 56 against Wheeler. That's an overwhelming 93 percent expressing no confidence.

Those voting included scientists, public health professionals and other people with enough education and sound judgment to recognize that Wheeler's order to work in an unsafe environment is worse than foolhardy, it's inhumane and potentially lethal.

Union leaders said that midlevel managers who by law cannot be in a union share their views that the Wheeler directive is not just unwise, it's likely to result in the deaths of some EPA employees or their loved ones.

Trump originally tapped Wheeler — a former coal industry lobbyist and climate change denier — for EPA leadership back in 2017, before ultimately succeeding in installing him as permanent administrator in February 2019.

During an online union hall meeting Monday night to announce the no-confidence vote results union leaders reminded members of their lack of protections from deadly workplace conditions.

Loreen Targos of Local 704 noted that federal employees cannot legally strike, then added that federal employees "have a right to fight for our lives."

#### Union Says Don't Return

Gary Morton, president of AFGE Council 238, emphasized telecommuting's effectiveness against COVID-19's spread. He told the council's 9,000 members that they should not return to their EPA offices until a safe and effective vaccine against the virus is developed, they get it and it is widely available.

The unionists have been working remotely since March 15 without issue, the union says.

But forcing them back into office spaces where mask-wearing would not be enforced and measures to ensure social distancing in hallways and elevators have not been taken is a threat to workers' lives.

Just one infected worker who models Trump's mask-less behavior could make a whole building sick. COVID-19 is expected to cause lifelong health problems in some of those affected. Infected workers can spread the disease to their family members, some of whom may be vulnerable due to age, pre-existing conditions and other factors not yet fully understood

Joyce Howell, a Local 3631 leader who has negotiated with management, called hypocrisy on the Trump administration. "They [administrators] always say your health and safety is our priority — [but] if you spend 15 minutes at the bargaining table, you know that that's not true," Howell said. "I have no confidence employee health and safety are being considered during the reopening."

Wheeler's drive to pack bodies into traditional, and confined, office spaces where tiny droplets of moisture laced with the virus can spread disease is especially suspect to other union leaders. No other federal agency is being subjected to similar "phase three" return to federal buildings, they said.

"Seems like they are lining us up to push us over the cliff into phase three," President Bethany Dreyfus of Local 1236 said. "This whole time they were using us to make a political point."

AFGE Local 704's Felicia Chase further insists that Wheeler's plan to force employees back into traditional office spaces fails to consider COVID-19's disproportionate impact on black and brown people. Chase called Wheeler's directive "straight-up racist."

#### 'Compliance' Next Week

The requirement for workers to return to their offices could come as early as Thursday evening with compliance expected Tuesday, Oct. 13, according to AFGE Council 238 members.

Eddie Guster, the council's sergeant-at-arms, said Trump's continuing dismissal of the deadly effects of COVID-19 and his returning to the White House while infectious is both "infuriating" and reckless.

Because of the disease, "some of my friends lost parents," Guster said. "We have a president who doesn't care if you live or die. Even our mid-level management is with us on this."

Targos remains defiant while reminding rank and file EPA employees that solidarity has enabled them to confound Wheeler and Trump for this long.

"They have no idea what we're capable of," in resisting the dangerous order Targos said. "They haven't seen nothing, so far."

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## Agriculture

EPA Administrator Wheeler Visits Ohio Farm

<https://agnewswire.com/2020/10/07/epa-administrator-wheeler-visits-ohio-farm/>

EPA Administrator Wheeler Visits Ohio Farm

October 7, 2020

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Andrew Wheeler kicked off a swing through northeast Ohio Tuesday which included attending an Ohio Farm Bureau event on a dairy farm in Stark County where he highlighted EPA's commitment to working with Ohio's farmers on a number of environmental issues.

During the event, Administrator Wheeler delivered remarks to a group of farmers highlighting President Trump's commitment to the agriculture community, and the Trump EPA's efforts to strengthen partnerships with farmers and rebuild trust with rural America. Additionally, Administrator Wheeler discussed EPA's Navigable Waters Protection Rule (NWPR) that replaced the overreaching Obama Administration's Waters of the United States rule that lacked clarity. He reiterated that NWPR provides clarity on waters that are federally regulated, specifically noting they no longer include farm ditches or stock water ponds.

Administrator Wheeler also touted how EPA is ensuring crop protection tools are made available for the agriculture community. For example, following the 9th Circuit of Appeals decision in June that threatened to upend the growing season for many farmers, the Trump Administration fought to ensure farmers were able to use already-purchased dicamba.

Listen to Wheeler's press gaggle in Ohio here:

EPA Admin Andrew Wheeler in Ohio 4:42

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## Air

RCRA Air Compliance Initiative and Rescission of "Once In, Always In" Policy Present Federal and State Self-Audit Opportunities

<https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/rcra-air-compliance-initiative-and-29533/>

### Key Takeaways

- What Happened: EPA urges self-audits for facilities subject to RCRA Parts 264/265 Subparts AA, BB and CC air emission standards to avoid potential for substantial penalties and injunctive relief
- Who's Impacted: Regulated entities with facilities subject to RCRA air standards, especially those newly subject to those standards after EPA's just-finalized withdrawal of the "once in, always in" policy for HAP major sources under the Clean Air Act
- What Impacted Entities Should Consider Doing in Response:
  - Review relevant Compliance Initiatives
  - Identify facilities subject to RCRA air standards
  - Consider conducting a voluntary federal, state, or confidential compliance audit

The U.S. EPA Office of Enforcement and Compliance National Compliance Initiative focusing on reducing hazardous waste air emissions is alive and well. EPA's core goal is to foster compliance with the RCRA air rules in 40 CFR Parts 264 and 265, Subparts AA, BB and CC. EPA's June 2020 EPA Enforcement Alert describes numerous areas of RCRA noncompliance that EPA continues to find at hazardous waste large quantity generators (LQGs) and treatment, storage, and disposal facilities (TSDFs). In the Alert, EPA suggests specific proactive operational measures that operators can take to improve compliance and points to the benefits of self-disclosure utilizing state or EPA audit programs.

Now may be a particularly good time to self-audit RCRA air rules compliance given that EPA recently finalized rescission of the "once in, always in" policy under Clean Air Act (CAA) Section 112. Former hazardous air pollutant (HAP) major sources that recently became minor sources by taking an enforceable limit on HAP emissions may now be subject

to RCRA air rules to which they were formerly exempt under the CAA and require coverage in the facility's RCRA permit. EPA points out this potentially unrecognized transition in the Alert, encouraging facilities to work with permitting authorities to address any associated compliance gaps.

EPA also notes the potential for noncompliance at major sources unaffected by the "once in, always in" policy withdrawal given the complex interplay between the RCRA air rules and CAA rules in 40 CFR Parts 60, 61 and 63. The CAA and RCRA each contain provisions to avoid duplication of requirements; e.g., with RCRA providing exemptions based on owner/operator certification that equipment that would be subject to Subparts AA or CC will operate in accordance with applicable CAA requirements.

With EPA now on the lookout for RCRA-CAA compliance gaps, voluntary self-auditing provides an EPA-encouraged avenue for identification and correction of noncompliance and potential mitigation of sizable penalties that might otherwise be imposed. The EPA Compliance Initiative points to enforcement cases where the penalties were in the hundreds of thousands of dollars and injunctive relief in the millions.

The EPA Audit Policy is not the only mechanism for undertaking a compliance audit. Many states have audit programs that are similar to EPA's program. Entities with facilities in two or more states can conduct simultaneous or sequenced audits pursuant to the EPA or state programs with careful logistical coordination of the discovery, disclosure, and correction of violations. Audits can also be conducted confidentially under the attorney-client privilege outside the EPA and state audit policies, although opportunities for disclosure and utilization of audit policies may be foreclosed where a state audit policy requires prior notice of an audit, such as in Texas, or where the deadline for disclosure has passed. Now might also be an opportune time for companies to consider broader RCRA auditing, to include other aspects of RCRA compliance. For example, some EPA regions have an informal but highly active Generator Initiative that focuses on reporting, contingency plans, and emergency response training. Compliance with EPA's [Hazardous Waste Generator Improvements Rule](#) (effective May 30, 2017) in states that have received or will soon receive delegation may also present audit opportunities, given the number and complexity of regulatory changes in that rule.

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## Chemicals

[The EPA's Record On Pesticides During The Trump Administration](#)

<https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2020/10/07/epa-trump-pesticides>

05:33

["https://player.wbur.org/hereandnow/2020/10/07/epa-trump-pesticides"](https://player.wbur.org/hereandnow/2020/10/07/epa-trump-pesticides)

October 07, 2020

Late last month, the Environmental Protection Agency announced that it was rejecting scientific evidence that the pesticide chlorpyrifos is linked with health problems. This comes after the Obama administration pledged to ban the pesticide.

Here & Now's Tonya Mosley speaks with NPR food and agriculture correspondent [Dan Charles](#).

This segment aired on October 7, 2020.

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[EPA Grants Request for D4 Risk Evaluation](#)

<https://www.natlawreview.com/article/epa-grants-manufacturer-request-risk-evaluation-d4-posted-october-07-2020-lynn-l>

Posted on October 07, 2020 by Lynn L. Bergeson

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) granted on October 6, 2020, a manufacturer request for a risk evaluation of [octamethylcyclotetra-siloxane \(D4\)](#), a chemical used to make other silicone chemicals and as an ingredient in some personal care products. Through the American Chemistry Council's Silicones Environmental, Health, and Safety Center, Dow Silicones Corporation, Elkem Silicones USA Corporation, Evonik Corporation, Momentive Performance Materials, Shin-Etsu Silicones of America, Inc., and Wacker Chemical Corporation requested a risk evaluation of D4 pursuant to Section 6 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). For manufacturer-requested risk evaluations under TSCA Section 6, the manufacturers requesting the risk evaluation are responsible for payment of the associated fees. The fee for a manufacturer-requested risk evaluation of a chemical included in the 2014 update to the TSCA Work Plan is 50 percent of total actual costs, with a \$1,250,000 initial payment. D4 is included in the [2014 update to the TSCA Work Plan](#). EPA notes that if the request is not withdrawn within 30 days, D4 will enter the TSCA risk evaluation process.

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Published October 7, 2020 by Zachary Toliver.

In a breaking victory for animals, gentle rats, rabbits, and guinea pigs will be spared, now that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced its plan to reduce pesticide experiments on them!

The EPA's latest progress toward humane science comes after the agency conducted a detailed scientific analysis with the National Toxicology Program Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods showing that a particular pesticide test doesn't provide information that protects humans. This move was prompted by a meeting with scientists from PETA and the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine.

According to the EPA, this victory will prevent approximately 750 rats, rabbits, or guinea pigs per year from being used in tests in which pesticides are applied to their shaved skin, after which they're killed—if they haven't already died from poisoning.

Rabbits just want to be left alone to protect their young, build nests, and hop around freely. Rats are caring mothers who dip their paws into cool water and gently smooth the fur around their infants' faces. Guinea pigs stress out when their food sources suddenly change. Can you imagine their terror when being handled by experimenters and smeared with toxic pesticides?

More than ever, the EPA is using common sense and taking steps to stop killing animals with deadly poisons.

Earlier this year, the agency announced a "common-sense policy" that no longer requires a test on birds in which experimenters feed them poisoned food. This announcement was made after a scientific analysis—conducted by the EPA and PETA scientists—showed that this test provided information already produced in another required test.

Avoiding this kind of useless testing allows the EPA and companies to focus on developing and implementing animal-free tests that will save animals and better protect humans and the environment.

These latest actions come after the EPA announced in 2019 that it will stop funding and requesting tests on mammals by 2035, and it's made a commitment to reducing the number of such tests in the interim.

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## **Land Management**

EPA gives authority to state on environmental issues over tribal lands  
<https://www.cherokeephox.org/Article/Index/165375>

BY LINDSEY BARK  
10/07/2020 02:00 PM

OKLAHOMA CITY – On Oct. 5, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced that the Oklahoma government now has regulatory control over environmental issues on nearly all tribal lands in the state.

On July 22, Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt requested authority from the EPA soon after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the *McGirt v. Oklahoma* case that much of the land in eastern Oklahoma remained the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's reservation, according to an Associated Press article.

"Unfortunately, the governor's decision to invoke a 2005 federal law ignores the longstanding relationships between state agencies and the Cherokee Nation," Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. said. "All Oklahomans benefit when the tribes and state work together in the spirit of mutual respect and this knee-jerk reaction to curtail tribal jurisdiction is not productive."

EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler made the approval of the state's request. It applies to more than two dozen federal environmental programs overseen by several state agencies, including the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, Water Resources Board and the Oklahoma Corporation Commission.

Stitt made the request under Section 10211(a) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA) of 2005.

Section 10211(a) of SAFETEA states "...upon request of the State, the Administrator shall approve the State to administer the State program in the areas of the state that in in Indian country, without further demonstration of authority by the State."

"As Administrator Wheeler's letter correctly points out, the State of Oklahoma did not seek to expand or increase its regulation over new areas of the state, but rather to continue to regulate those areas where the state has consistently implemented these environmental programs under the steady oversight of the U.S. EPA," Stitt said in the AP article.

The underlying law, inserted as a midnight rider in SAFETEA, allows states to "seek environmental oversight in Indian Country," authored in 2005 by Oklahoma's Republican U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe, a known ally of the oil and gas industry, according to the AP article.

A summary report was sent to Oklahoma tribes on Sept. 29 regarding a consultation process conducted earlier that month. Several tribes questioned the limited consultation, saying that it was not extensive enough.

One specific comment in the summary said, "The EPA cannot satisfy its statutory and policy obligations to the Cherokee Nation by merely engaging in a limited three-week consultation process."

Hoskin said he is disappointed that the CN's request to the EPA for individual consultation with affected Oklahoma tribes was ignored.

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EPA Grants State of Oklahoma Control Over Environmental Issues on Tribal Lands

<https://nativenewsonline.net/sovereignty/epa-grants-state-of-oklahoma-control-over-environmental-issues-on-tribal-lands>

BY NATIVE NEWS ONLINE STAFF OCTOBER 07, 2020

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. — In a letter dated Oct. 1, 2020, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Andrew Wheeler sent to Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt granted the state of Oklahoma regulatory control over environmental issues on nearly all tribal lands in the state.

The letter comes after Stitt requested on July 22, 2020 control of environmental regulations on tribal land involving a wide range of issues. All of Stitt's requests in his letter were granted by the EPA.

"EPA's letter grants Oklahoma's request to administer the State's EPA-approved environmental regulatory programs in certain areas of Indian country. EPA's letter resolves ambiguity and essentially preserves the regulatory status quo in Oklahoma," EPA spokesman James Hewitt said in a statement, adding that existing exemptions would still stand and that the agency would implement federal environmental programs.

"Additionally, if any tribe wants to apply for regulatory oversight of these environmental programs, then they can apply through EPA's Treatment as a State process," he added.

Wheeler's letter giving control to Oklahoma referenced the SAFETEA Act of 2005, a transportation bill sponsored by sponsored by Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.) that allows Oklahoma to oversee environmental issues "in the areas of the state that are in Indian country, without any further demonstration of authority by the state."

Tribal officials were not happy with the EPA's stance that comes so close to the historic U.S. Supreme Court McGirt v. Oklahoma on July 9, a ruling that gave major legal jurisdictional authority to tribes for almost half of the eastern part of Oklahoma.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation responded to the EPA's decision in the following statement:

"The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is disappointed in the decision of the EPA to grant Governor Stitt's request to administer environmental regulation in certain areas of Indian Country under the SAFETEA Act of 2005. Like the SAFETEA Act itself, this was a swift move meant to circumvent the appropriate time and available information to adequately respond. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation submitted a request for tribal consultation just two days after the Governor submitted his request. The MCN was granted two consultations, but it seems the concerns raised did not suffice. The MCN will continue seeking remedies to the situation."

Tribal officials fear the EPA's decision establishes a pathway to potential environmental abuses on tribal land, including dumping hazardous chemicals like carcinogenic PCBs and petroleum spills, with no legal recourse by the tribes.

"It's disappointing the Cherokee Nation's request that EPA consult individually with affected Oklahoma tribes was ignored," Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. said in a statement to The Hill.

"Unfortunately, the governor's decision to invoke a 2005 federal law ignores the longstanding relationships between state agencies and the Cherokee Nation. All Oklahomans benefit when the Tribes and state work together in the spirit of mutual respect and this knee-jerk reaction to curtail tribal jurisdiction is not productive," he added.

The EPA decision comes after it consulted with tribes. The summary, however, says Indian Country opposed the decision.

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## Pollution

We Urge All Senators to Closely Examine Judge Barrett's Views on Environmental Law – EDF

<https://www.edf.org/media/we-urge-all-senators-closely-examine-judge-barretts-views-environmental-law-edf>

Statement of Environmental Defense Fund General Counsel | Vickie Patton – October 7, 2020

October 7, 2020

"Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell says he still plans to proceed with the confirmation of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court prior to the November 3rd election. We urge all Senators, in accordance with their duty to the American people under the U.S. Constitution, to take the time needed before casting a vote to closely examine whether Judge Barrett respects the bedrock judicial precedents and statutes that protect public health and the environment for all Americans.

"When it comes to any nominee to the high Court, we ask whether the nominee, if confirmed, respects the congressional enactments and foundational legal precedents that make up our nation's public health and environmental laws. Judge Barrett's record warrants close scrutiny for adherence to central tenets of environmental law.

"People threatened or injured by public health and environmental harms depend on access to the courts to redress those harms. This is a pillar of the American justice system, and we recommend Senators and the public carefully review Judge Barrett's position on it. Judge Barrett has ruled in several recent cases that plaintiffs lack standing to redress injuries. See, for example: *Casillas v. Madison Ave. Assoc.*, 926 F.3d 329 (7th Cir. 2019) (held consumer lacked standing to challenge a debt collector's failure to adhere to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act); and *Protect Our Parks, Inc. v. Chicago Park District*, 971 F.3d 722 (7th Cir. 2020) (held residents alleging violations of state public trust doctrine lacked standing to sue on that claim in a case where all parties agreed standing was not an issue). The Senate should thoroughly evaluate Judge Barrett's views on people's access to the courts in public health and environmental cases.

"Judge Barrett's commitment to precedent also warrants careful review. Under the fundamental judicial doctrine of *stare decisis*, judges are bound by precedent. More than thirteen years ago, the Supreme Court affirmed EPA's responsibility under existing statutory law to interpret the 'capacious' term 'air pollutant' to include climate pollution (*Massachusetts v. EPA*, 549 U.S. 497 2007). This precedent and other pillars of U.S. environmental law must be respected to ensure our nation's laws continue to protect Americans' health and well-being. The Senators must determine whether Judge Barrett has demonstrated such respect. See, for example: *Groves v. United States*, 941 F.3d 315 (7th Cir 2019) (overruling precedent allowing district courts to enlarge deadline for filing interlocutory appeals); and *Amy Coney Barrett, Originalism and Stare Decisis*, 92 Notre Dame L. Rev. 1921 (2017).

"Judge Barrett's academic career and short tenure on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit do not fully illuminate her views about environmental law and related areas of public law. Will she respect Congress's and state and local governments' powers to protect public health and welfare through legislation, including by authorizing administrative agencies with the expertise to implement these safeguards effectively? Does she respect the role of administrative agencies' scientific and technical expertise in administering federal law? Does she agree with the scientific consensus that human-caused climate change is causing extreme danger to public health and welfare?

"It is the responsibility of each Senator to carefully examine and weigh these vital questions if this nomination is considered."

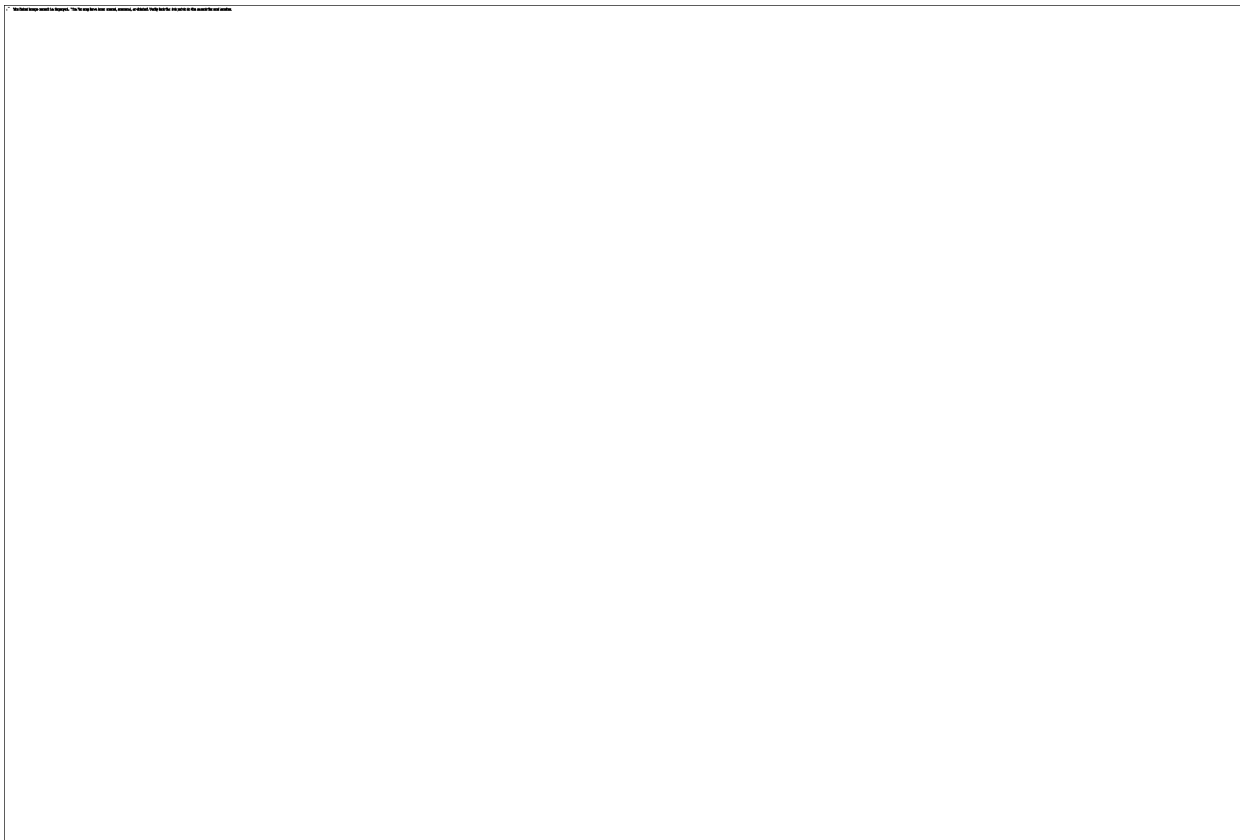
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## Superfund

EPA approves plan for Sidney Superfund site | Local News

[https://www.thedailystar.com/news/local\\_news/epa-approves-plan-for-sidney-superfund-site/article\\_eec67582-2adb-554d-b2fb-60a2d90c0d77.html](https://www.thedailystar.com/news/local_news/epa-approves-plan-for-sidney-superfund-site/article_eec67582-2adb-554d-b2fb-60a2d90c0d77.html)

Staff Report



Sarah Eames | The Daily StarThe former site of GCL Tie and Treating in Sidney, a U.S. EPA Superfund cleanup site, is shown in this Oct. 7 photo.

Federal authorities have finalized their plan to clean up decades-old contamination in the village of Sidney. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Tuesday, Oct. 6, announced finalization of its plan to address creosote contamination at the GCL Tie and Treating Superfund Site along the Susquehanna River in the village. Creosote is an oily contaminant obtained from extracting coal tar at a high temperature and is commonly used as a wood preservative. According to a media release, the final cleanup plan addresses the portion of the site where creosote contamination, in the form of non-aqueous phase liquid (NAPL), is impacting groundwater and includes heating the subsurface soil to reduce the thickness of the NAPL to the point that it can be better extracted through specialized extraction wells. "EPA's previous actions under the Superfund program, including the removal of about 20,000 gallons of readily accessible creosote and the treatment of about 80,000 cubic yards of soil, significantly reduced the extensive creosote contamination impacting the soil and groundwater at the GCL Tie and Treating site," EPA Regional Administrator Pete Lopez said in the release. "Through this cleanup plan, we are upholding our commitment to protect the environment for future generations by addressing the remaining creosote contamination in soil and bedrock at the site." The GCL Tie and Treating property comprises 26 acres of the 60-acre Superfund site in an industrial area of Sidney. The property formerly contained a sawmill, a wood-treating facility, and a light manufacturing company and is bordered by commercial and industrial properties, a railroad line, and undeveloped federal- and state-regulated wetlands. The non-GCL property is the remaining 34 acres and includes properties affected by creosote releases from the GCL Tie and Treating operations. Under the selected cleanup plan, EPA will address the remaining contamination at the site that is continuing to contaminate groundwater by using thermal treatment. Thermal treatment works by applying very high temperatures directly underground to the contaminated area, which makes the creosote less viscous and enables it to move more easily through soil toward extraction wells where it is collected and piped to the surface to be treated. The heat can make the contaminated area hot enough to destroy some chemicals, the release said. The estimated cost of the remedy is \$25 million. EPA expects to address an ongoing source of groundwater contamination and help the aquifer to recover with the selected plan. A final action for the groundwater will be determined after the remedy is implemented, the release said. EPA held a virtual public meeting on Sept. 3 to explain its cleanup plan, discuss the other cleanup options that were considered and solicit public comments.



According to information on the EPA website, the GCL site first came to the attention of the state Department of Environmental Conservation in 1986, after one of the pressure tanks used at the GCL facility malfunctioned, causing an estimated 30,000-gallon release of creosote.

EPA's selected cleanup plan for the site, outlined in the Record of Decision, can be found at:

[www.epa.gov/superfund/gcl-tie](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/gcl-tie)

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## Sustainability

EPA Awards \$15,000 Grant for Sustainable Food Management

<http://www.publicnow.com/view/CFB1C74F2940C45E90F80620F0D00A27D866FA9B71602091064>

10/07/2020

EPA Awards \$15,000 Grant for Sustainable Food Management

PHILADELPHIA (Oct. 7, 2020) - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to announce that the Composting Council Research & Education Foundation (CCREF) has been selected to receive funding to support a project to promote the beneficial use of compost under the agency's Sustainable Materials Management grant opportunity. The CCREF works closely with the US Composting Council, a trade organization for the compost industry. USCC staff will assist CCREF on this project to will work with state agencies in the Mid-Atlantic Region to increase the use of compost in green infrastructure projects.

EPA anticipates that it will award CCREF a grant in the amount of \$15,000 once all legal and administrative requirements are satisfied. Funding this project furthers the Administration's goal of helping state and local governments achieve their sustainability goals.

'I look forward to seeing this project assist our state and local partners who are using green infrastructure to manage stormwater in communities,' said EPA Regional Administrator Cosmo Servidio. 'In addition to the numerous environmental benefits, there is the additional benefit of building strong markets for compost products which supports the composting industry thereby increasing the opportunity to divert food waste from landfills. It's a win-win-win situation.'

Compost is made from recycled organic materials. Increasing the use of recycled materials in the U.S. is more critical than ever. CCREF will work with state and local agencies in the mid-Atlantic states to provide education and training on the use of compost for construction projects that will improve stormwater management and water quality. Compost can be used in a variety of applications including compost blankets and socks, rain gardens, and green roofs. CCREF will connect compost manufacturers with end users through educational and marketing activities to support implementation of these applications.

'It's so important to connect compost manufacturers with end users through educational and marketing activities in order to reap the well-documented environmental benefits of using compost. We look forward to working closely with EPA and the mid-atlantic states bridge that gap. CCREF is grateful for this opportunity to identify barriers, help expand the knowledge about the benefits of compost use and help develop plans to increase compost use,' said Frank Franciosi, CCREF Executive Director.

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Hillphoenix Earns 9th Consecutive EPA GreenChill Excellence Award

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/hillphoenix-earns-9th-consecutive-epa-greenchill-excellence-award-301147971.html>

## NEWS PROVIDED BY

Dover

Oct 07, 2020, 16:15 ET

SHARE THIS ARTICLE

DOWNERS GROVE, Ill., Oct. 7, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- Hillphoenix, part of Dover Food Retail and Dover (NYSE: DOV) and a pioneer in designing environmentally sustainable refrigeration systems, has earned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) GreenChill 2019-20 Store Certification Excellence (non-supermarket) award.

This achievement recognizes the commercial refrigeration systems manufacturer that has installed more advanced refrigeration systems in GreenChill-certified stores than any other partnering manufacturer in the past year. During the 2019-2020 cycle, Hillphoenix systems were installed in 433 stores, over 84% of the GreenChill certified stores. This is Hillphoenix's ninth consecutive GreenChill recognition since the category was created in 2011.

"We are proud to be a founding member of the EPA's GreenChill program, which underlines Hillphoenix's continued commitment to sustainable technologies and refrigeration solutions," said Scott Martin, Director of Research, Industry Relations and Development at Hillphoenix. "We greatly appreciate the EPA's recognition of Hillphoenix's efforts to continually advance sustainable technologies in partnership with its customers."

"We congratulate Hillphoenix for their ongoing achievements as part of the GreenChill Store Certification Program," said Kirsten Cappel, GreenChill Program Manager. "By earning the Store Certification Excellence award for nine consecutive years, Hillphoenix has shown that supporting the supermarket industry's focus on reducing harmful refrigeration emissions and its transition to advanced refrigeration technologies is not only good for the environment, it is good business."

Hillphoenix has a consistent record of advancing sustainable refrigeration:

- In the mid-1990s, the company introduced Second Nature systems, one of the first cooling technologies to reduce global-warming emissions.
- Thousands of Second Nature systems have shipped by Hillphoenix utilizing low global warming potential and natural refrigerant solutions.

About the GreenChill Partnership:

EPA's GreenChill Program is a voluntary partnership with food retailers, refrigeration system manufacturers, and chemical manufacturers to reduce refrigerant emissions and decrease their environmental impacts. GreenChill provides supermarkets and other industry stakeholders with information and assistance to transition to environmentally friendlier refrigerants, reduce the amount of refrigerant they use, eliminate refrigerant leaks, implement environmental best practices, and adopt green refrigeration technologies. There are over 12,600 GreenChill Partner stores throughout the nation. For more information on EPA's GreenChill Program, please visit [www.epa.gov/greenchill](http://www.epa.gov/greenchill).

About Dover Food Retail:

Dover Food Retail, part of Dover Corporation with headquarters in Conyers, Georgia, is the partner to customers seeking to create unique food experiences. Employing the capabilities of our industry-leading brands, Anthony and Hillphoenix, we are able to provide insight and a comprehensive portfolio of innovative solutions that enables our customers to sell more food, more profitably. Our ability to evolve with the ever-changing market demands is driven by our passion for understanding our customers' business and providing them with the best quality products and services they need to succeed both today and in the future. Our focused, forward-thinking approach, combined with the strength of our brands, sets the stage for streamlined product development, a broader product portfolio, and cutting-edge technology resulting in redefining what is possible for customers in the food retail value chain.

About Hillphoenix and Anthony:

Hillphoenix branded products and services deliver advanced design and manufacturing of commercial refrigerated display cases and specialty products along with commercial and industrial refrigeration systems and integrated power distribution systems. Training, design, energy and aftermarket services are available through the Hillphoenix Learning and Design Centers and The AMS Group. Anthony branded products deliver innovative design and manufacturing of merchandising solutions in glass doors, lighting systems and display equipment for use in commercial refrigeration display systems. For more information visit [hillphoenix.com](http://hillphoenix.com), [anthonyintl.com](http://anthonyintl.com), or call (800) 283-1109.

About Dover:

Dover is a diversified global manufacturer and solutions provider with annual revenue of approximately \$7 billion. We deliver innovative equipment and components, consumable supplies, aftermarket parts, software and digital solutions, and support services through five operating segments: Engineered Products, Fueling Solutions, Imaging & Identification, Pumps & Process Solutions and Refrigeration & Food Equipment. Dover combines global scale, operational agility, world-class engineering capability and customer intimacy to lead the markets we serve. Recognized for our entrepreneurial approach for over 60 years, our team of over 23,000 employees takes an ownership mindset, collaborating with customers to redefine what's possible. Headquartered in Downers Grove, Illinois, Dover trades on the New York Stock Exchange under "DOV." Additional information is available at [dovercorporation.com](http://dovercorporation.com).

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## Water

[EPA Administrator Visits Cleveland For Update On Lake Erie Conservation](https://www.ideastream.org/news/epa-administrator-visits-cleveland-for-update-on-lake-erie-conservation)

<https://www.ideastream.org/news/epa-administrator-visits-cleveland-for-update-on-lake-erie-conservation>

U.S. EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler visited the shores of Lake Erie and the U.S. Coast Guard in Downtown Cleveland Wednesday. [Taylor Haggerty / ideastream]

## AUTHOR

Taylor Haggerty

PUBLISHED October 7, 2020

The Ashtabula River is on its way to being removed from a list of areas of concern for environmental degradation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Andrew Wheeler said Wednesday during a visit to Cleveland for an update on Lake Erie and the surrounding watershed.

"We are within sight of the finish line in terms of returning Ohio's rivers to health again so they can again become a place where people can swim, play, catch fish, and generally enjoy what this great state has to offer," Wheeler said. The Ashtabula River is the first area of concern in the state of Ohio to undergo the delisting process, Wheeler said, which requires signoffs from the state, U.S. EPA and Canada, and will be completed next year.

Efforts that began in the mid-2000s have led to \$67 million in government spending to remediate sediment and restore habitat in and around the river, he said.

"Since then, 500,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment have been removed from inside and outside the navigation channel," Wheeler said.

Restrictions on dredging activities to aid in restoration efforts were lifted in September, Wheeler said, kicking off the delisting process.

The Black and Cuyahoga rivers are also making progress toward delisting, Wheeler said. The final list of management actions to restore and clean up the Cuyahoga River were approved last month, including the removal of the Cuyahoga Gorge Dam. All management actions for the Black River have been completed, Wheeler said, and it will undergo an evaluation process over the next several years.

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EPA: New vessel discharge rule in works

<https://www.marinelog.com/news/epa-new-vessel-discharge-rule-in-works/>

EPA: New vessel discharge rule in works

Written by Nick Blenkey

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) yesterday proposed standards to reduce the environmental impact of discharges, such as ballast water, that are incidental to the normal operation of commercial vessels. When finalized, says EPA, the new rule will streamline the current patchwork of federal, state, and local requirements that apply to the commercial vessel community and will better protect U.S. waters.

EPA is proposing to establish national standards of performance for incidental discharges from commercial vessels as required under the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA). The proposed rule includes discharge-specific standards for 20 different types of vessel equipment and treatment systems, as well as general performance standards that would apply more broadly to the full range of incidental discharges.

EPA's proposed standards would apply to:

- Commercial vessels greater than 79 feet in length.
- Other non-recreational, non-Armed Forces vessels, such as research and emergency rescue vessels.
- Ballast water only from small vessels (vessels less than 79 feet in length) and fishing vessels of all sizes.

The proposed rule also outlines procedures for states working through EPA or the U.S. Coast Guard to seek more stringent requirements, request emergency orders, or apply for no-discharge zones for one or more of the incidental discharges in any or all state waters.

EPA will accept comment on the proposal for 30 days, following publication in the Federal Register.

- You can see a prepublication version of the proposed rule [HERE](#)

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Judge Tosses EPA Plan to Dredge and Fill Bay Area Salt Ponds

<https://www.ecowatch.com/epa-salt-ponds-cargill-2648128372.html?rebelltitem=5#rebelltitem5>

Jordan Davidson Oct. 07, 2020 11:49AM EST

A federal judge in a U.S. District Court in the Northern District of California vacated a decision by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to dredge and fill salt ponds in Redwood City, a town on the San Francisco Bay, as the AP reported.

The judge in the case, William Alsup, determined on Monday that the EPA made a miscalculation in how the Clean Water Act is applied when it decided that large developments on the salt ponds were exempt from the act's regulations, according to [Courthouse News](#).

In arguments, the EPA made the bold claim that the Redwood City Salt Ponds were a unique case upon which the judge lacked the expertise to decide, and therefore should defer to the EPA's wisdom. The EPA also argued that it relied on previous federal court decisions to determine that the salt ponds were not protected. Those two arguments struck the judge as contradictory.

"Either there is precedent or there is not," Alsup wrote in a [21-page ruling](#), as Courthouse News reported. "This order holds that there is precedent and that EPA headquarters misapplied that precedent."

The Redwood City Salt Ponds are south of San Francisco, between Palo Alto and San Mateo. They are 1,365 acres owned by the food giant Cargill. Cargill said it wanted to build a 12,000 unit housing development in 2009, but reversed course after a groundswell of opposition arose, as the AP reported.

The ponds are tidal pools and marshlands used for salt mining operations. If the Salt Ponds did not have protection under the Clean Water Act, they could be dredged, filled and developed.

Environmental activists, including Save the Bay, San Francisco Baykeeper, Committee for Green Foothills and Citizens' Committee to Complete the Refuge, joined California's attorney general in filing suit against the EPA, as Courthouse News and [KTVU](#) in Oakland reported.

"This is an important victory for protecting clean water in our communities. And it's a good reminder to the Trump Administration that it can't use the San Francisco Bay as its political playground," Attorney General Xavier Becerra said in a statement, as the AP reported. "The EPA can't ignore its own scientists and come up with an arbitrary rule that opens the door for development of a vital ecosystem."

The [Trump](#) administration had determined that the salt ponds were not "waters of the United States" since it was separated from the San Francisco Bay by a network of levees and dikes. That reversed a 2016 Obama-era EPA decision that the ponds should be covered by the Clean Water Act, according to the AP.

If the Trump-era EPA's decision had been upheld, then California would not have the right to review development plans to make sure that any new development was in compliance with the state's water quality regulations. It would have also restricted the state from requiring a developer to include public parks and protective wetlands, as Courthouse News reported.

In his decision, Alsup noted that much of the salt ponds would be inundated with water if there were not artificial barriers blocking the water. Since the water would be there, the ponds are part of the water owned by the U.S.

"Today's ruling makes clear that Cargill's future development of the salt ponds will be severely limited by Clean Water Act protections, resulting in a big legal win for San Francisco Bay," said Sejal Choksi-Chugh, executive director of San Francisco Baykeeper, in a statement on Monday, as Courthouse News reported.

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Ashtabula River is so clean it's no longer listed as EPA area of concern, Lorain and Cuyahoga rivers making progress  
<https://www.cleveland.com/news/2020/10/ashtabula-river-is-so-clean-its-no-longer-listed-as-epa-area-of-concern-lorain-and-cuyahoga-rivers-making-progress.html>

Updated 1:22 PM; Today 1:18 PM

By [Cameron Fields, cleveland.com](#)

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- The Ashtabula River is now so clean, it has cleared all requirements to remove the designation of a federal area of concern.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Andrew Wheeler announced Wednesday that the last "beneficial use impairment" was removed in September, meaning the river -- [once a major shipping hub in Lake Erie](#) -- can start the delisting process.

By the time it's "delisted" next year, the river will be the sixth cleared from the original 31 areas in the 1987 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. The EPA, state and federal partners and others have spent over \$67.5 million to help rehabilitate the river.

The Lower Menominee River AOC in Wisconsin was the [first to be delisted](#) since 2014, said Kurt Thiede, the EPA Region 5 administrator and Great Lakes National Program manager.

"I'm proud -- both as EPA Administrator and as an Ohioan -- to announce that the Ashtabula River is the first AOC in the state to begin the delisting process," Wheeler said in a news release. "We are within sight of the finish line in terms of

returning Ohio's rivers to health again – so they can again become a place where people can swim, play, catch fish, and generally enjoy what this great state has to offer.”

Along with the Ashtabula River, improvements have also been made on the Black River in Lorain and the Cuyahoga in Cleveland, both tributaries to Lake Erie.

All management actions have been completed on the Black River, and Thiede said they would be monitored going forward. The next step will be to remove beneficial use impairments and eventually remove the designation of area of concern.

“Through a combination of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding and strong partnerships with our local, state and federal partners, more than \$24 million has been spent on completing habitat restoration projects in the Black River AOC,” Thiede said in a news release.

The Cuyahoga River is also making strides. The EPA and state agreed in September on a list of important management actions to remove the last seven beneficial use impairments for the river. That consists of 16 projects that will prioritize cleaning up contaminated sediments and restoring the wildlife habitat and fish.

Related: Cuyahoga River fish safe to eat, Ohio EPA says

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Cantwell, Murray, Colleagues Press EPA on Implementation of Trump Order to Withhold Federal Funding from Seattle, Portland, Major U.S. Cities | U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell of Washington

<https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/news/press-releases/cantwell-murray-colleagues-press-epa-on-implementation-of-trump-order-to-withhold-federal-funding-from-seattle-portland-major-us-cities>

Letter comes as EPA considers withholding funds for cleaning up contaminated land and drinking water in Seattle and Portland

WASHINGTON DC – U.S. Senators Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Patty Murray (D-WA) joined Oregon Senators Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Jeff Merkley (D-OR), New York Senators Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), and Senator Tom Carper (D-DE), the top Democrat on the Environment and Public Works Committee, in a letter this week to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Andrew Wheeler requesting information about EPA's implementation of the White House memorandum ordering federal agencies to withhold federal funds from cities that President Trump falsely claims are being run by “anarchists.”

“We have learned that EPA, in its internal meetings related to the policy, has begun to identify funding sources that could be subject to the directive, some of which are vital for the provision of safe drinking water and the remediation of contamination,” the senators wrote. “Setting aside the legally questionable and abhorrent nature of the President's directive, EPA's implementation thereof could endanger human health and the environment.”

More than \$1 billion of recent EPA funds to Seattle, Portland, New York City, and Washington, D.C. could be at risk if EPA were to implement the White House memorandum. In their letter, the senators cited multiple examples of funding the EPA may seek to halt, deny, or rescind as a result of President Trump's directive. These include a \$192,200,000 Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loan that the city of Seattle received to reduce combined sewer overflows, and as well as \$27,914,000 awarded to the state of Washington in FY 2020 for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, and \$24,598,000 for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

“We strongly urge you not to take any action that could result in the collective loss of more than a billion dollars of funding intended to clean up contamination and drinking water in these American cities,” the senators continued. “To do so would be antithetical to EPA's mission of protecting human health and the environment.”

The senators requested that EPA provide an initial response no later than October 9, 2020.

The full text of the letter is available below and [HERE](#).

Dear Administrator Wheeler:

We write to express our grave concern and request information about EPA's plans to implement the September 21, 2020 White House memorandum that describes the first step in adopting the “policy that the Administration will not allow Federal tax dollars to fund cities that allow themselves to deteriorate into lawless zones.” We have learned that EPA has begun internal meetings designed to comply with this directive, and that EPA is considering withholding funds that are intended to be used to clean up contaminated land and sources of drinking water in Seattle, Washington; Portland, Oregon; New York City, NY; and Washington, D.C. We strongly urge you not to do so.

The President first announced his legally questionable policy to deny federal funding to these cities on September 2, 2020, stating that “My Administration will not allow Federal tax dollars to fund cities that allow themselves to deteriorate into lawless zones. To ensure that Federal funds are neither unduly wasted nor spent in a manner that

directly violates our Government's promise to protect life, liberty, and property, it is imperative that the Federal Government review the use of Federal funds by jurisdictions that permit anarchy, violence, and destruction in America's cities." The September 21 follow-up memo directs federal agencies to submit "a report to the Director of OMB detailing all Federal funds provided to Seattle, Portland, New York City, Washington, D.C., or any components or instrumentalities of the foregoing jurisdictions."

We have learned that EPA, in its internal meetings related to the policy, has begun to identify funding sources that could be subject to the directive, some of which are vital for the provision of safe drinking water and the remediation of contamination. We have also learned that on September 22, the day after the follow-up memorandum from the White House, you sent a letter[3] to the Governor of New York and Mayor of New York City threatening to relocate the EPA's Region 2 headquarters out of the current location at 290 Broadway in Manhattan due to nearby demonstrations, saying that "If you cannot demonstrate that EPA employees will be safe accessing our New York City offices," you would take steps to "move them to a location that can competently fulfill the basic mission of a local government."

Setting aside the legally questionable and abhorrent nature of the President's directive, EPA's implementation thereof could endanger human health and the environment. The retaliatory threat to move EPA's regional headquarters out of New York City would waste taxpayer dollars and endanger the jobs of the nearly 600 people who work there. Some examples of funding that EPA may seek to halt, deny or rescind include:

- Portland: The city was invited by EPA to apply for \$554 million in Water Infrastructure and Finance Innovation Act (WIFIA) loans to "complete three projects to improve public health and water quality and increase drinking water system resiliency and reliability for nearly 1 million people." The city also received \$500,000 in Brownfields grant funding to clean up a site that "is contaminated with polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, ethylbenzene and metals" and \$600,000 in Brownfields funding for the assessment of additional contaminated sites. The State of Oregon was allotted \$18,133,000 in FY 2020 for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) and \$14,487,000 for the Drinking Water SRF.
- Seattle: The city received a \$192.2 million WIFIA loan to "reduce combined sewer overflows to support public health, ecosystems and the economy in the Seattle metropolitan area." The State of Washington was awarded \$27,914,000 in FY 2020 for the Clean Water SRF and \$24,598,000 for the Drinking Water SRF.
- New York City: The city received \$300,000 in Brownfields funding to clean up sites with "the intention of redeveloping vacant and abandoned properties and turning them into community assets such as housing, recreation and open space, health facilities, social services and commerce opportunities." The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey also received \$420,000 in Diesel Emissions Reduction Act grant funding. The State of New York was allotted \$177,173,000 in FY 2020 for the Clean Water SRF and \$44,967,000 for the Drinking Water SRF.
- Washington, D.C.: The district received \$158,000 in funding to test for lead in drinking water in schools. The district was allotted \$7,880,000 in FY 2020 for the Clean Water SRF and \$11,011,000 for the Drinking Water SRF.

We strongly urge you not to take any action that could result in the collective loss of more than a billion dollars of funding intended to clean up contamination and drinking water in these American cities. To do so would be antithetical to EPA's mission of protecting human health and the environment. So that we can understand the process by which EPA is responding to the President's misguided September, 2020 directive, we ask that you provide copies of:

1. The report cataloguing EPA funding to these cities requested by OMB on September 21, 2020 and due to be submitted to OMB on October 5, 2020.
2. All documents (including but not limited to calendar items, emails, presentations, meeting minutes, and memos) obtained or created by EPA that are related to EPA's compliance with the President's September 2, 2020 directive.
3. Documents listing and fully describing all decisions to rescind, halt, deny or otherwise modify any type of EPA funding to any of the cities listed above.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. Please provide your initial response no later than Friday, October 9, with additional materials to be provided on an ongoing basis thereafter until EPA's implementation of the September directive is complete. If you have any questions or concerns, please have your staff contact Michal Freedhoff of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee staff ([michal\\_freedhoff@epw.senate.gov](mailto:michal_freedhoff@epw.senate.gov)).

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Lake Erie takes another step toward health

[https://www.thecentersquare.com/ohio/lake-erie-takes-another-step-toward-health/article\\_8f7df6e6-08c5-11eb-ae74-63c1195c5310.html](https://www.thecentersquare.com/ohio/lake-erie-takes-another-step-toward-health/article_8f7df6e6-08c5-11eb-ae74-63c1195c5310.html)

- [By J.D. Davidson | The Center Square](#)
- 45 min ago

(The Center Square) – Lake Erie continues to get healthier and another area is closer to being removed from the Environmental Protection Agency’s area of concern.

On Wednesday, Ohio Senate President Larry Obhof, State Sen. Matt Dolan and EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler announced from Lake Erie shores a series of accomplishments, including the removal of the last beneficial use impairment at the Ashtabula River Area of Concern.

Also announced was the completion of all management actions at the Black River Area of Concern.

“Some of these waterways, including the Ashtabula River, have faced significant environmental issues for decades,” Obhof, R-Medina, said. “Today’s announcements are a milestone in our efforts to clean up our waterways and to protect and preserve the Great Lakes. I thank Administrator Wheeler and the Trump Administration for making this a priority. Beneficial use impairments is an EPA designation that means a change happened in the chemical, physical or biological integrity of the Great Lakes system that was enough to cause significant environmental degradation, according to the EPA website.

“I’m grateful that our federal government is recognizing the importance of Lake Erie to both the economy and our environment. Clean Water is critical to our quality of life,” Dolan, R-Chagrin Falls, said. “Now, the state and federal partnership plays a significant role in the preservation and cleanup of Lake Erie.”

Since the mid-2000s, the EPA, along with state and other federal partners and industries, have spent more than \$67.5 million to clean up contaminated sediment and restore habitat in the Ashtabula AOC. With the final impairment lifted, which restricted dredging, Ohio can now move to delist the AOC.

“I’m proud – both as EPA administrator and as an Ohioan – to announce that the Ashtabula River is the first AOC in the state to begin the delisting process,” Wheeler said. “We are within sight of the finish line in terms of returning Ohio’s rivers to health again.”

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#### Congress Extends Chesapeake Bay Program

<https://conduitstreet.mdcounties.org/2020/10/07/congress-extends-chesapeake-bay-program/>

Alex Butler

October 7, 2020

Environment

Last week, Congress approved a broad package of conservation initiatives including the extension of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Chesapeake Bay Program.

The America’s Conservation Enhancement Act includes several important provisions that reauthorizes the Bay Program for five additional years with a maximum allocation capped at \$92 million per year. This year, Congress set aside \$85 million for the program. Also reauthorized is the Chesapeake Gateways and Watertrails Network that works to connect people to the natural and cultural heritage of the Chesapeake region.

From coverage in the Bay Journal:

The legislation also creates the Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Development Program — dubbed WILD — within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The program is authorized to provide up to \$15 million annually in grants that support fish and wildlife habitat projects in the Bay region. That could include things such as forest buffer plantings, wetland restoration, initiatives that improve stream health, removal of barriers to fish migration and efforts to improve habitats for species such as black ducks and brook trout.

The legislations also reauthorizes the North American Wetlands Conservation Act at \$60 million annually until 2025. The bill now heads to the President to be signed into law.

For more information, view coverage in the Bay Journal, and the Grand Forks Herald.